

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AID-05 DHA-02 SSM-03  
IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 ORM-02 /102 W  
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P R 051400Z AUG 77  
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3824

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI LE  
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 29 - AUG 4

REF: BEIRUT 3662 (DTG 290530Z JUL 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE VISITED  
BEIRUT. IMPLEMENTATION OF CHTAURA AGREEMENT PROCEEDED  
UNEXPECTEDLY WELL, ALTHOUGH SOME FIGHTING CONTINUED IN SOUTH.  
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AN NAHAR PUBLISHER GHASSAN TUEINI ENDORSED DEPLOYMENT OF  
UN TROOPS TO SOUTH LEBANON. PRESIDENT SARKIS RECEIVED  
YASSER ARAFAT AND ABU IYAD. PARLIAMENT GRANTED GOVERN-  
MENT SPECIAL POWERS TO LEGISLATE BY DECREE UNTIL END OF  
YEAR. LEBANESE CHRISTIANS FROM DAMOUR STAGED  
DEMONSTRATION IN EAST BEIRUT SUBURBS. ARMY BEGAN  
TRAINING OF SECOND MIXED MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN COMMANDO

BATALLION. WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION OPENED CONGRESS AT BEIR MERI. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY VISITS BEIRUT.

SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE VISITED BEIRUT ON AUGUST 3 AND CONFERRED WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS, PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS AND OTHER LEBANESE OFFICIALS (SEPTELS). LOCAL PRESS GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO VISIT AND APPLAUDED SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT U.S. HOPED TO OFFER LEBANON \$100 MILLION IN MILITARY SALES CREDITS OVER NEXT THREE YEARS AND \$43 MILLION IN RECONSTRUCTION AID OVER NEXT YEAR, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. PRESS ALSO FOCUSED ON SECRETARY'S ASSERTION THAT REQUEST FOR DEPLOYMENT OF UN FORCES TO SOUTH "IS TO BE DECIDED BY LEBANON ITSELF."

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF CHTAURA AGREEMENT.

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIAL PHASES OF JULY 21 CHTAURA AGREEMENT HAS SO FAR PROCEEDED UNEXPECTEDLY WELL. IN BEIRUT AREA, ASF TROOPS ESTABLISHED POSITIONS AROUND SABRA/CHATILA REFUGEE CAMPS, AND ARMED PALESTINIANS WITHDREW FROM CITE SPORTIVE. COLLECTION OF UNAUTHORIZED ARMS IN HANDS OF PALESTINIANS DID NOT BEGIN, HOWEVER.  
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B. IN SOUTH, DESPITE ANNOUNCED CEASE-FIRE, THERE WERE LOW-LEVEL ARTILLERY EXCHANGES, MAINLY BETWEEN PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS IN NABATIYAH AND CHRISTIANS IN MARJAYUN AND QULAYAH, ACCORDING TO LEBANESE MILITARY SOURCE. IN APPARENT MOVES TO IMPLEMENT CHTAURA AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, PALESTINIANS TOOK DOWN ROADBLOCKS ON MAIN COASTAL HIGHWAY TO BEIRUT AND SHIFTED SOME FORCES FROM COAST AND FROM AREA SOUTH OF LITANI TO ARKUB, SAME SOURCE REPORTED (SEE IR-6 857 0070 77).

C. LOCAL PRESS HAS CLAIMED THAT LEBANESE TROOPS WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEPLOY TO SOUTH WITHIN 15 TO 20 DAYS TO ESTABLISH BUFFER ZONES PROVIDED BY AGREEMENT. ARMY COMMANDER VICTOR KHOURY, HOWEVER, ADMITTED PRIVATELY ON JULY 29 THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO DEPLOY TROOPS TO SOUTH FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS (SEE IR 6 857 0071 77).

4. UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS.

IN SIGNED EDITORIAL ON JULY 31, AN NAHAR PUBLISHER GHASSAN TUEINI SAID STATIONING OF UNITED NATIONS TROOPS

IN SOUTH LEBANON "WOULD CREATE MILITARY AND  
POLITICAL CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE TO PEACE." NLP  
LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN WAS QUOTED BY HIS NEWSPAPER AL  
AHRAR AS SAYING SUCH UN FORCES ARE "ALL TALK," BUT  
THAT IT WOULD BE "DIFFERENT MATTER" IF U.S. WANTED TO  
"SEND ITS OWN FORCES TO REGION."

5. SARKIS RECEIVES ARAFAT.

PRESIDENT SARKIS RECEIVED PLO OFFICIALS YASSER  
ARAFAT AND ABU IYAD ON AUGUST 1. AFTER MEETING,  
ARAFAT TOLD REPORTERS THAT TALKS WERE "CORDIAL AND  
BROTHERLY." ARAFAT ENDORSED AGREEMENT REACHED AT  
CHTAURA, WHERE HE HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT AND ABU IYAD HAD  
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HEADED PLO DELEGATION. (NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY DAILY  
AL AHRAR SEIZED ON ARAFAT'S ABSENCE FROM CHTAURA AND  
REPORTED THAT ABU IYAD WAS SEEKING TO OUST ARAFAT FROM  
PLO LEADERSHIP). ARAFAT ALSO APPEALED FOR "NEW PAGE  
IN BROTHERLY RELATIONS BETWEEN LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS,"  
AND THANKED FORMER PRESIDENT FRANJIEH FOR SPEAKING IN  
FAVOR OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE AT UNITED NATIONS IN 1974.  
FRANJIEH REPLIED FOLLOWING DAY BY ASSERTING THAT IT WAS  
TWO EARLY FOR "NEW PAGE" IN RELATIONS AND BY SAYING  
"THE THANKS ARE REJECTED," BECAUSE HE WAS ONLY DOING  
HIS DUTY.

6. SPECIAL POWERS GRANTED.

ON AUGUST 4 PARLIAMENT GRANTED GOVERNMENT SPECIAL  
POWERS TO LEGISLATE BY DECREE IN FIELDS OF RECON-  
STRUCTION, ECONOMY AND SECURITY UNTIL END OF  
YEAR. VOTE OF DEPUTIES PRESENT WAS 63 IN FAVOR AND THREE  
ABSTENTIONS. THIRTY-THREE DEPUTIES WERE ABSENT,  
INCLUDING CAMILLE CHAMOUN.

7. DEMONSTRATION OVER DAMOUR.

LEBANESE CHRISTIANS FROM DAMOUR STAGED ORDERLY  
DEMONSTRATION IN STREETS OF EAST BEIRUT SUBURBS ON JULY  
29 TO PROTEST DELAY IN EVACUATION OF THEIR TOWN BY  
PALESTINIANS. LOCAL PRESS PUT NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS  
AT 10,000, BUT THIS FIGURE IS EXAGGERATED. FORMER  
PRIME MINISTER SAEB SALAM TOLD PRESS THE FOLLOWING DAY  
THAT THE PLO WAS READY TO MOVE PALESTINIANS OUT OF  
DAMOUR AS SOON AS AN ALTERNATIVE PLACE WAS PROVIDED FOR THEM.

8. NEW COMMANDO BATTALION.

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ON AUGUST 1 ARMY BEGAN TRAINING SECOND MIXED MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN COMMANDO BATTALION. TRAINING WILL LAST FOR ONE MONTH NEAR YARZE. FIRST BATTALION, WHICH HAS ALREADY COMPLETED TRAINING, IS NOW PERFORMING INTERNAL SECURITY DUTIES, AS WILL SECOND BATTALION. LEBANON MARKED ARMY DAY ON AUGUST 1, AND ARMY COMMANDER KHOURY PLACED WREATH AT TOMB OF UNKNOWN SOLDIER.

9. WLCU CONGRESS OPENS.

WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION, PRIMARILY CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING LEBANESE EMMIGRANTS AROUND WORLD, OPENED ITS SIXTH CONGRESS AT BEIT MERI ON AUGUST 1. AMONG PEOPLE PRESENT WERE FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BOUTROS, PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL, AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER SAEB SALAM. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD SENT CONGRESS MESSAGE REITERATING U.S. SUPPORT FOR POLICIES OF PRESIDENT SARKIS AND FOR ALL EFFORTS TO RECONSTRUCT LEBANON (SEPTTEL).  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009